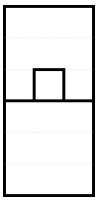
The Symbol - the Wind Travels Above the Heavens: Small Herd.



When I am shepherding lowliness, I am envisioning the symbolism of wind lowing above heaven. Heaven's leading impulse is located below the lowing wind, instead of above - where heaven is generally expected to be found.

Here, the vigorous activities of heaven are herded to a stop. The most humble and honest claim to merit and importance is the best way of herding the loftiest, most important, and most noble characteristics of heaven. When I am shepherding lowliness, I am envisioning the most noble and important being herded around, and brought to a stop by, the lowliest of breath, wind, or spirit.

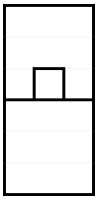
It is, in fact, the low rank, or social and political importance, of the lowliest spirit that herds the characteristics of a vigorous and lofty heaven. By definition, the lack of esteem or high regard is what positions a spirit as being 'lowly.' Therefore, 'lowliness' could not and cannot stop the vigorous activities of a lofty heaven by any type of external force.

Here, the high rank of heaven's lofty importance is herded to a stop by that spirit which is the most obedient to principles and exerts the least force in pursuit of its own needs or desires. When I am shepherding lowliness, I am imagining that the vigorous forces of a lofty and noble heaven are herding themselves around a way that is small in importance, number, and power. The vigor of heaven is bringing itself to a stop around that which is of the smallest and lowest in class, size, and ability.

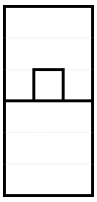
Shepherding a Small Herd (Small Shepherding) Follows After Gathering a Team and Drawing Close Together.

After a team is **drawn close** together, the teammates are **relating to** one another and **depending on** one another. The **tendencies of each** teammate is being **absorbed into the entire** team, and the **team is being shepherded by each individual teammate**.
The small team is **huddling**, and **herding**, **together after** the teammates become closely **interrelated**.

When things have Drawn Close together,



Then, the things have been Herded.[1]



When things Draw Close to, and depend on, each other,
Then, these things make up a gathering, and
A gathering is a Herd.[2]

When things Draw Close, and relate to, each other,
Then the tendencies of each individual thing also
shepherd the tendencies of the others in the Herd.

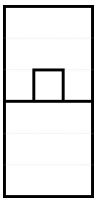
In all of these Ways, Drawing Close is followed by Shepherding a Small Herd.

Consequently, in the Procedure of Heaven,
Shepherding a Small Herd (Small Shepherding) follows after
A Team Gathering **and Drawing Close Together**.

When I am Small Shepherding, I am Shepherding by the Way of Lowliness and Submission.

When I am herding, I am bringing things to a stop.
When I have stopped these things,
Then, I have also gathered them.

Symbolically, the Lowing Wind is above the Leading Heaven.
The Lowing Wind is what is above, and
The Leading Heaven is what is below.



Leading Heaven is something that is always what is above, but
Here, **Leading Heaven is occupying a position below**.

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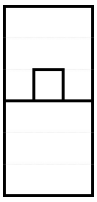
[1] "Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet **the youngest**, but he is **keeping the sheep**.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' […] The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then **Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers**; and the Spirit of the Lord came Mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16.11-13 "(Youngest may also mean '**the smallest**' and contrasts David with Saul." Oxford Bible, Notes pg. 430. "(**Keeping the sheep**, Shepherd was a common metaphor for a **king**.)" Oxford Bible, Notes pg. 430. "Ramah (ray'muh); Heb., 'height')" Bible Dictionary, pg. 912.

[2] "All the tribes of **Israel** came **to David in Hebron**, and they said: Look! **We are your bone and flesh**. In days past, when Saul was still our king, you were the one who led Israel out in all its battles and brought it back. And the Lord said to you: **You shall Shepherd** my people Israel; you shall **be Ruler over Israel**." 2 Samuel 5.1-2.



For Shepherding a Small Herd, and
For bringing firm tendencies and vigorous tendencies -
Tendencies that make and persist in their decisions, and
Tendencies that resist the influence of others -
For bringing these tendencies **to a stop**,
Nothing works better than the Way of Lowliness and Submission.

In the **Way of Lowliness and Submission**,
Those below **honor the Mandate** of the Way;
Those below **submit to the Mandate** of the Way; and
Those below **attend to the Mandate** of the Way.

In the Way of Lowliness and Submission,
Those above **also honor the Way** of Heaven and Earth;
Those above **also submit to the Way** of Heaven and Earth; and
Consequently, **the Mandate of the Way of Heaven and Earth goes out into the world**.

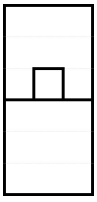
It is the Way of Lowliness and Submission that Shepherds a Small Herd.

The lowliness of: Leading Heaven below Blowing Wind.
This is the symbol for Shepherding a Small Herd.

The Way of Lowliness and Submission is a Way of **softly descending** and Yielding, and
Is a Way that is **made from *an ability to* receive the influences of others**, and
An ability **to turn the influences** of others **into what is fitting for** the ***success of all***.

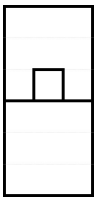
Lowliness can only use softness and submission to the Mandate of the Way
To Shepherd the firm and vigorous tendencies.
The Way of Lowliness **cannot bring the** firm and vigorous tendencies **to a stop by force**.
Consequently, the Way of Shepherding by Lowliness and Submission is a Way of **being small**.

Symbolically, the position of **Great Minister** is the only position in the Small Herd figure that is **occupied by** a **tendency to descend** and Yield.



Since the tendency to descend and Yield **brings Joy** to the other five Terrains of Small Shepherding -
All of which being occupied by tendencies to Rise and Lead -

The softer tendency to descend and Yield **finds a position <u>within the Herd</u>**.



When I have acquired a position by **<u>acquiring the ability to receive influences</u> and turn** them **<u>into what is best for the success of all</u>**,
Then, I am Shepherding a Small Herd on the Way of Lowliness and Submission;
I am **<u>able to herd the firm tendencies</u>** occupying the five other Terrains, and
Consequently, I **embody the symbolism** shown in the figure of Shepherding a Small Herd.

The figure of Shepherding a Small Herd is a symbol of that which is small being used to Shepherd that which is great.
Shepherds are small, and
The Way of Shepherding by Lowliness is also small.
In the figure of Shepherding a Small Herd,
I am **<u>focused on the Great Minister's position</u>**,
<u>Occupied by a soft tendency to descend</u> and **<u>Yield</u>**,
<u>Shepherding the tendencies to Rise and Lead</u>.